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Trudi Thompson
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Applicant: POLOTECH CENTER 1600/2900
Serial No.: 09/546,201
Filed: April 10, 2000
Title: **ENHANCEMENT OF THE IMMUNE RESPONSE FOR VACCINE AND GENE THERAPY APPLICATIONS**

Examiner: S. Foley
Group Art Unit: 1648
Atty Docket No.: 1463.002 (20263-32)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 7, 2001, Applicants respond as follows:

In the Claims

Cancel claims 1-25, 27, 32 and 45 without prejudice to future continuation, divisional or continuations-in-part applications. Claims 26, 28-31 and 33-44 are presently pending.

Please amend the following claims:

a1
26. An expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule which, when transcribed in vivo forms a double stranded RNA that induces the production of interferon, and an RNA polymerase II promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule that encodes an antigen from a pathogenic agent.

a2
28. The expression cassette according to claim 26 wherein said antigen is a viral antigen.

30. The expression cassette according to claim 26 wherein said pathogenic agent is a bacteria, parasite or fungus.

U3 contd.